

motors are unable to control other functions in the latch. In accordance with the present invention only one motor is required, with major savings on components including wiring and in the weight and size of the system. Cost is significantly reduced.

Matsumoto U.S. Patent 4762348 and Shimada US Patent 5411302 both disclose the use of only one electric motor in an index drive mechanism for electrical door opening and for electrical door closing under power. These features are also disclosed in Rogers US Patent 5639130, which further discloses a mechanical override and control, giving independence of mechanical operation from electrical operation.

As understood, Matsumoto '348 does not disclose the use of the indexer for door locking or unlocking. Locking and unlocking is achieved by electrical switches SW4 and SW6 arranged on the door sill (column 3, lines 7 to 12) and switches SW3 and SW5 operated by the key cylinder c(column 2, lines 67 and 68). These switches make or break circuits in a control device 8, which interrupts power to the motor to prevent door opening when the handles are operated.

Shimada '302 appears to disclose a boot latch mechanism with a latch bolt 60 and a locking member (locking plate 70), together with a mechanism 25 for releasing the striker in an emergency situation by actuating the latching member 70. There is no lock for the locking plate, i.e., no locking means for locking and unlocking the locking member. It is not suggested how this boot latch could be used for example with an electrical central locking system, and no key mechanism is shown. Accordingly, the present invention is believed to be patentably distinct in relation to the references.

Should the Examiner have any additional inquiries or suggestions to facilitate the Application toward an early Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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